Newspaper Advertisements of U.P.S.C. given by D.A.V.P.

1676. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state: The names of Newspapers to which advertisements of the Union Public Services Commission were given through DAVP during the period from 1st April, 1992 to 31st March, 1993, language-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): During the period 1st April, 1992 to 31st March, 1993, UPSC advertisements were issued to 184 newspapers a list of which, language-wise, is given in the Annexure. (*See* Appendix CLXVII, Annerure No. 21).

Allocation of time on Metro Channel

1677. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to sell time on Metro Channel on 'first come first serve' basis; and

(b) if so, what are the plans of Government to monitor the Standards of these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTNG (SHRI K. P. SNGH DEO). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The programmes telecast during the metro hour (8.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.) introduced from 26th January, 1993 are not previewed but are required to conform to the AIR Broadcast Code, the advertisement code applicable to Doordarshan, the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1992, Copyright Act and Dordarshan's guidelines.

Merger of News Agencies PTI and UNI into one

1678. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to merge the two news agencies, the P.T.I. and the U.N.I. into one;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and whether the Hindi agencies BHASHA and UNIVARTA will be closed down; and

(c) whether permission given to the foreign news agency REUTER to operate independent of the P.T.I. since April this year that has caused a huge revenue loss to the P. T. I. is one major causes for proposed merger of the two Indian news agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) The Government is not aware of any such proposal as PTI and UNI are private news agencies, independent of the Government.

Observation Norms laid down for Selection of AIR Correspondents Abroad

1679. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether all norms laid down for selection of AIR correspondents for posting abroad have been observed in case of selection/apointment of correspondents at Singapore and Dubai;

(b) Under what circumstances, the norms like the one that the incumbent should have minimum five years of service period before retirement, has not been observed; and

(c) what are the reasons for selecting persons outside the panel when much more experienced and senior persons were named in the panel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No specific norms have been laid down for posting of AIR Special Corerspondents abroad. However, due consideration is given to seniority and experience in an Electronics Media while making postings of AIR Correspondents abroad.

(b) and (c) The orders for posting of officers at Singapore and Dubai were last issued on 16th January, 1990 and 2nd February, 1990 respectively. No final selection has yet been made about the posting of their successors on completion of their three year tenure in May/June 1993.

Setting up of Commercial Film Corporation of declaring film business as industry

1680. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to declare film business as an "Industry" by setting up a Commercial Film Corporation with seed money to break the growing nexus between the film world and smugglers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to check this growing nexus between the film industry and smugglers and consequential generation of black money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government have not received any suggestion for setting up of a Commercial Film Corporation from the film industry, which is predominantly in the private sector.

(d) this is a law and order problem, maintenance of which falls within the jurisdiction of the State Government.

Regulation of Cable T.V. and Dish Antinnae

1681. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Damodaran Committee has recommended for the regulation and licensing of the cable television and dish antennae operators;

(b) what are the other important recommendations made by Damodaran Committee; and

(c) what recommendations have been accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The recommendations made by the Inter-departmental Committee on Cable TV Networks and Dish antennae system are annexed as statement. (*See* below)

(c) The matter is under examination.

Statement

Recommendations made by the Inter-departmental Committee on Cable TV networks and dish antennae systems:—

(i) The establishment of Cable TV Networks (without Dish Antennae) may be permitted after devising an appropriate regulatory machanism to cover their operation both within private premises and across public property;

(ii) The licensing of a dish antennae should be permitted only